

**DECLARATION, POWER OF ATTORNEY AND PETITION**

I, C. Robert Ripplinger, declare: that I am a citizen of the United States of America; that my residence and post office address is 66 East 100 North, Millville, Utah 84326; that I verily believe I am the original, first, and sole inventor of the subject matter of the invention or discovery entitled CORRUGATED, FRACTURE-CONTROLLING FLANGES FOR SPOOLS AND REELS, for which a patent is sought and which is described and claimed in U. S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/774,389, filed January 29, 2001; that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims; and that I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Section 1.56 of Title 37 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

I declare further that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful, false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful, false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

I hereby appoint as my attorneys A. John Pate, Gary D.E. Pierce and Hal D. Baird, Registration Nos. 36,234, 38,019 and 42,284, respectively, with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

All correspondence and telephonic communications should be directed to:

A. John Pate  
PATE PIERCE & BAIRD  
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50 West Broadway, Suite 900  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101

Wherefore, I pray that Letters Patent be granted to me for the invention or discovery described and claimed in the foregoing specification and claims, declaration, power of attorney, and this petition.

Signed at Millville, Utah, this 18<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2001.

Inventor C. Robert Ripplinger  
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66 East 100 North  
Millville, Utah 84326